

## Public Schools



Public schools are a traditional focus and center of community life. They not only provide educational services, they are important community focal points. Many citizens get to know each other and their community through public school activities. Citizens often see the fate of their communities tied with the health of their schools. In general, when schools are doing well, people feel their neighborhoods are healthier.

Due to privacy limitations on data, indicators previously used to evaluate the health of public schools on a community-specific basis (*such as truancy, suspensions, End of Course exam and Standards of Learning test results*) are no longer available. This report therefore focuses only on enrollment statistics.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

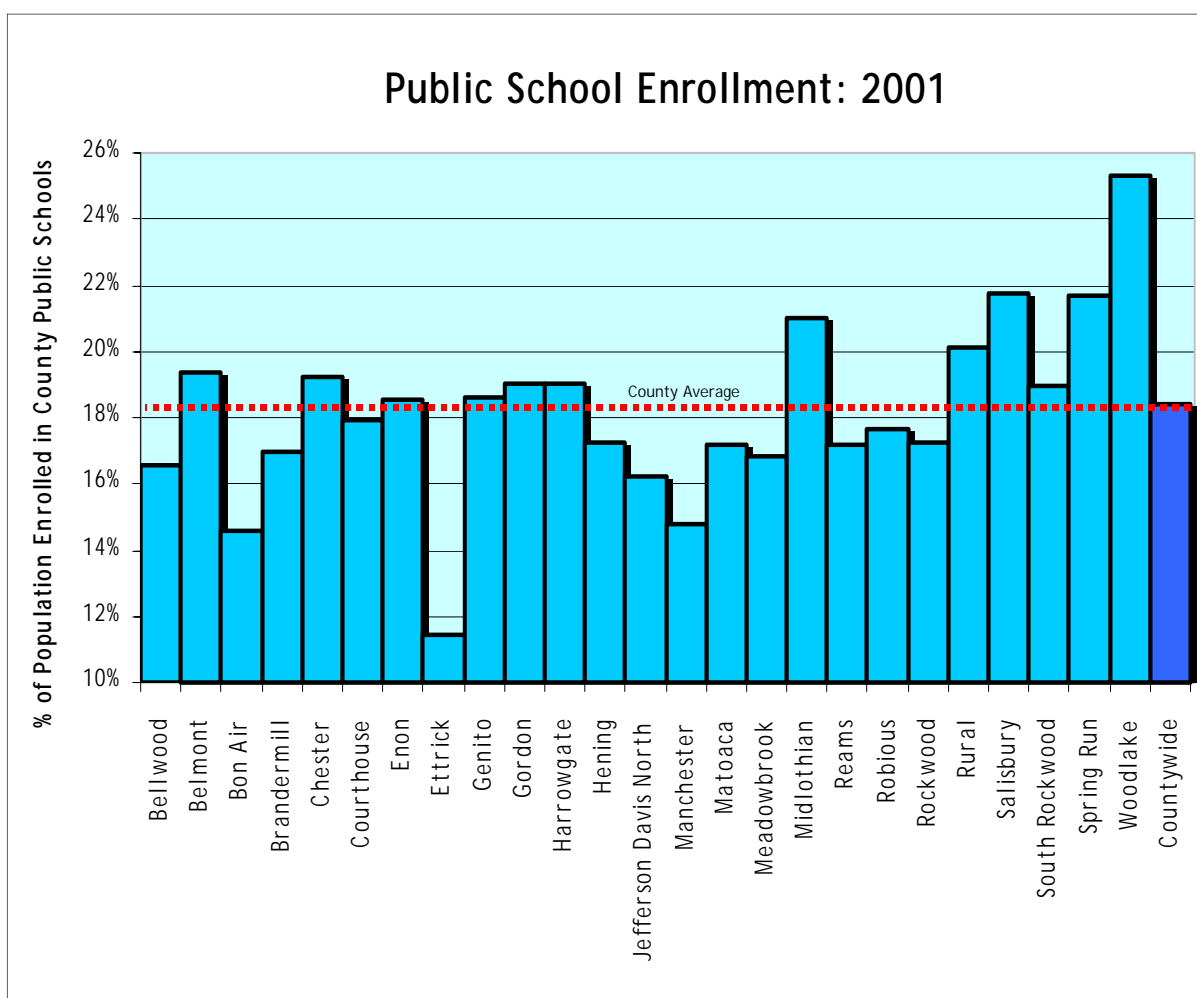
At the end of 2001 approximately 52,500 students, or 19.7% of the total county population, were enrolled in Chesterfield County public schools. At the same time, approximately 60,400 school-aged residents (ages 5 through 18) lived in Chesterfield County. The school-aged population is about 21.5% of the total county population.

About 7,700 school-aged children (12.7% of the school-aged population) were not enrolled in county public schools. This figure includes children enrolled in non-public schools (private and home schools), early graduates, younger 5-year olds (those not old enough to enroll in kindergarten at the beginning of the school year), dropouts and other non-enrolled children.

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Some communities have a relatively low percentage of their population enrolled in public school, such as Bon Air (14%), Ettrick (11%), and Manchester (14%). Bon Air has a median age about five years older than the countywide median age of 35.7 years. In this older community, there are proportionally fewer school-aged children. In Ettrick, a high percentage of the population is college-aged, attending Virginia State University. In Manchester, there are slightly more preschool aged children than the countywide average.

Public school enrollment is relatively high in certain communities (especially those in high-growth, rapidly developing areas) including Salisbury (22%), Spring Run (22%), and Woodlake (25%). Spring Run has a relatively young median age (31 years old in one census tract) compared to the rest of the county, and therefore has more school-aged children.



*Note: Source data used in the above table and on the following map is based on 50,072 known student address points as of December 2001. 52,726 students were enrolled as of September 30, 2001. Enrollment at the end of school year 2001-02 was 52,358 students. Actual December 2001 enrollment was therefore estimated to be 52,500 students. 2,702 student addresses (or 5.1%) were unknown and/or could not be geocoded. As a result, actual December enrollment in each community is likely to be slightly higher than shown.*

# Public School Enrollment: 2001

